

## AMENDMENT

### In the Claims

Please cancel claim 24 and amend the remaining claims as indicated below:

23. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- (a) a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleic acid complementary to said nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having the biological activity of controlling side-shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation;
  - (b) a fragment or derivative of said nucleic acid or said complementary nucleic acid, wherein the fragment or derivative encodes a polypeptide having the biological activity of controlling side shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation, said fragment or derivative hybridizing with said nucleic acid or said complementary nucleic acid under highly stringent conditions.
32. (Amended) A method for generating a plant having increased or suppressed side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation, the method comprising:
- integrating a nucleic acid molecule of claim 23 into the genome of a plant cell or a plant tissue for increasing or suppressing side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation; and

regenerating the resulting plant cell or plant tissue into a regenerated plant, wherein the regenerated plant expresses increased or suppressed side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule in an antisense orientation relative to an endogenous sequence.
36. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule in a sense orientation relative to an endogenous sequence.
37. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule into a genomic region of a homologous endogenous gene by homologous recombination.